

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Keep us alert, O God, in body, mind, and spirit, that in all that the day presents, we would remain attentive and faithful to the calling to which You have called each of us.

Give strength to those among us whose bodies are burdened with the strain of long hours of weighty work, miles of travel to stay connected with constituents, or the vestiges of illness or injury.

Give inspiration to those whose minds are wrought with innumerable issues for which they are held accountable, facts and figures and derivative impacts that confound reason and tax the brain.

Give respite to those whose spirits are weary from the challenges to their integrity, misgivings of their sense of purpose, and threats to their moral and ethical underpinnings.

In You, O Lord, we find our strength, our inspiration, and our respite. May we turn to You throughout this day that we would find all that we need to remain steadfast and faithful in our service to You and to this Nation.

In the power of Your name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PRIORITIZING LOCAL HIRES

(Ms. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act,

which includes a local hire provision that I offered to allow local transportation projects like the Los Angeles Metro to prioritize the hiring of local Angelenos for projects that are taking place in their own backyard.

My district has recently had two major construction projects. On the Westside, it is the Purple Line, which is going to connect UCLA to downtown L.A. In South L.A., it is the Crenshaw Line, which is going to bring a vital means of public transportation to neighborhoods historically neglected when it comes to economic investment.

It really didn't make sense that people living in the neighborhoods where the projects were going through could not be prioritized for the jobs. That is why this provision is so important.

With the local hire provision signed into law, people in Los Angeles neighborhoods can be prioritized for jobs in L.A. We are bringing thousands of well-paying jobs to Los Angeles and putting tax dollars back into the communities that paid for the projects in the first place.

THREAT TAGS

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, being a parent is a sacred responsibility, and every parent simply wants what is best for their kids. That is why, over the past year, we saw parents speak up at local school board meetings all across the country.

Whether it was pushing back against the radical teachings of critical race theory or voicing their opposition to mask mandates or allowing boys in girls' bathrooms, parents were standing up for their kids.

However, the National School Board Association deemed people exercising their First Amendment rights as domestic terrorists, and the Department of Justice used this narrative to launch investigations into parents.

Now we are learning from a whistleblower that the FBI was using antiterror tools to monitor parents and adding threat tags to files to track them. This is absurd. We should never criminalize parents for speaking up for their children.

To make matters worse, we now know the Attorney General lied under oath when he said there was no coordination between the DOJ and the National School Board Association. This administration has weaponized the DOJ for political gain and has chosen to stand with teachers unions over parents and students.

These actions are tyrannical, and Congress must know the extent to which parents were spied on.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA
PUTS FAMILIES FIRST

(Ms. SEWELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of President Biden's historic Build Back Better agenda.

Already, congressional Democrats have come together to pass part one of the Build Back Better agenda. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is the largest investment in United States infrastructure in nearly a century, and it will benefit my State of Alabama in so many ways.

It will provide \$5.2 billion to repair Alabama's roads, \$225 million to fix Alabama's bridges, and \$100 million to connect every Alabamian to high-speed internet.

Now we have the opportunity to pass part two, the Build Back Better Act. That, too, will invest in Alabama by creating millions of good-paying jobs; providing affordable childcare for over 300,000 Alabamians; lowering healthcare costs for families, including 300,000 Alabamians who fall into the Medicaid coverage gap; and delivering universal pre-K to over 110,000 Alabama 3- and 4-year-olds.

As co-chair of the Ways and Means Racial Equity Initiative, I have fought to ensure that equity remains a central focus, and I am proud that these bills will uplift our most vulnerable communities in so many transformative ways.

It is fully paid for. I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of the Build Back Better Act.

BIDEN INFLATION CRISIS

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Biden inflation crisis has hit the poor and middle-income families the hardest.

Inflation just reached a 30-year high, and consumer prices have increased to an astonishing 6.2 percent compared to 12 months ago. This has serious impacts on hardworking families as they try to make ends meet and prepare for the holiday season.

Are you planning on buying a 16-pound turkey? Be prepared to pay 18 percent more this year. That does not even include the stuffing.

Are you planning on driving to visit family for the holidays? Plan on paying 61 percent more in gas prices than last year.

Instead of taking action to rein in wasteful government spending and address rising costs, the White House is claiming a vote for the Build Back Better plan will solve the inflation crisis, which is a complete lie any way you look at it.

Their socialist spending plan will add more fuel to the inflation crisis and worsen their self-made supply chain crisis.

It is no wonder a majority of Americans disapprove of President Biden's handling of the economy, and it gets worse every single day.

Americans cannot afford to fund the Democrats' liberal wish list, and it is